

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03273 240019Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----091141 240808Z /10

R 240018Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03273

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, LE, FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH CONDITIONS FOR RENEWAL OF UNIFIL

REF: A) STATE 211412, B) PARIS 24552

1. AMBASSADOR LEONARD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND RENEWAL OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE WITH HUSSON, CHARGE OF THE FRENCH UN MISSION ON AUGUST 23. AFTER BRIEF REVIEW OF REPORTS ON URQUHART VISIT, HE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF FRENCH CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL NOTING THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PARIS REPORTED IN REFTELS.

2. HUSSON SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION THAT GOF ACTUALLY INTENDED TO LIMIT MANDATE RENEWAL TO THREE MONTHS. ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS HE SPECULATED THAT THEIR INTENT  
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IN RAISING THIS POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO FORCE THE GOL TO FACE MORE DIRECTLY ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REASSERTING ITS AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. AS REGARDS THE SIZE OF THE FRENCH CONTINGENT, HUSSON SAID THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED, BUT THAT THE NUMBER OF REGULAR SOLDIERS WOULD BE REDUCED AND THE LOGISTICS UNITS CORRESPONDINGLY AUGMENTED.

3. HUSSON INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE SEEKING GUIDANCE FROM THE QUAI ON GOF STRATEGY FOR THE UP-COMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON UNIFIL, INCLUDING THE TWO POINTS NOTED ABOVE. IN REPLY TO LEONARD'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER FRENCH PRESS HAD TAKEN CRITICAL POSITION TOWARD FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL, HUSSON SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT MOST OF THE REPORTING OVER THE SUMMER HAD FOCUSED ON THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT RATHER THAN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: WE REMAIN PUZZLED AS TO MOTIVATIONS AND REASONING UNDERLYING POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE FRENCH POSITION ON UNIFIL. WE FULLY SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT A REDUCTION IN THE DURATION OF THE MANDATE AND/OR THE SIZE OF THE FRENCH CONTINGENT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ENTIRE UNIFIL OPERATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY LIGHT WHICH EMBASSY PARIS CAN SHED ON THESE MATTERS. WE INTEND TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH UN MISSION. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, LE, FR, UNIFIL  
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